

A conference regarding National Parks had been held, and although time did not permit the agenda being completed, it was felt on the whole that the meeting had been successful. All delegates present had been in agreement that our National Parks and National Reserves should be controlled by one authority. It has now been left to a committee to formulate a scheme for submission to the Government.

The following were elected as Ordinary Members: Messrs. L. G. Dale, W. F. Day, and I. Moorisen; and as Country or Interstate Members: Messrs. J. J. Flahavin and E. G. Smith.

A telegram was read from Mr. F. S. Colliver accepting with much pleasure the Honorary Membership conferred upon him at the last meeting.

The following nominations for membership were received: As Ordinary, Mrs. E. K. Lording, Hood St., North Essendon, as Country, Mr. John Young, 62 Victoria Av., Chatswood, N.S.W.

Mr. Garnet again asked for volunteers to join the Excursions Committee.

#### DISCOVERIES OF GREAT INTEREST

The first speaker in this Symposium was Mr. C. J. Gabriel, who told us of a very important "find" he had made in Westernport Bay near the Cowes Jetty. The little shell caused great discussion among many learned conchologists abroad, but was finally put in a new genus, as *Larinopsis turbinata*. Another shell described was *Humphreya strangei*, the only good specimen of which was given by Mr. Gabriel to the South Kensington Museum of Natural History.

Mr. R. Dunn showed a slide of the spider *Saitis pavonis* (the latter word meaning "peacock") and described its extraordinary courtship dance.

Miss J. Raff gave an interesting lecture on the three types of water insects: ones that lived on the surface of the water, breathing free air; another, the "incomplete aquatic" type, that retained contact with the air, though usually submerged; and the third that was entirely aquatic and completed its larval life beneath the surface.

Mr. J. Willis told us how in 1929 he had found plants of a strange *Astelia* that grew 6 ft. tall in the Powelltown-Beenak district. There are nine species of the genus in New Zealand, but this plant was the first giant species to be recorded for Australia. It grows in the dense shade of boggy mountain gullies near their sources. *Astelia* (*Liliaceae*) with two dozen species, has a circum-polar distribution, being found in South America, Falklands, Réunion, Chatham and Campbell Islands, New Zealand, New Caledonia, S.E. Australia, New Guinea, Tahiti, Hawaii and the Marquesas.

Mr. A. Baker showed specimens of "imprisoned rocks," worn into smooth surfaces and many curious angles by the action of water in a confined space (pot-holes, etc.).

Mr. R. Lee spoke on seaweeds, and showed slides to illustrate his short talk. These plants are conveniently divided into three sections—the reds, browns, and greens. They differ from land plants in having neither vascular structure, flowers nor roots, reproduction being by water-borne spores, and very complicated.

Mr. Crosbie Morrison showed a film of the fruit-eating bat ("flying fox") and pointed out the comfortable manner in which it wrapped itself up in its wings and rocked itself to sleep.

Mr. A. D. Hardy spoke on auto-parasitism of a giant dodder-laurel (*Cassytha melanilla*), and showed that by experiment it had been proved that the haustoria on the twining stem *did* penetrate into its own tissue. He also reported the case of a "Bewildered Grey Box," which had sent down a branch 30 ft. long towards the ground. The foliage on this branch appeared to be that of grey box, but the flowers and buds were something between a grey and yellow box!

Mr. A. Swaly made some interesting comments on *Anquillaria dioica* (Early-Nancy), *Burchardia umbellata* (Milkmaids) and *Dichopogon strictus* (Chocolate Lily), with regard to the purposes of certain floral appendages.

Mr. Willis read a note from Mr. C. French telling how in 1892, on an excursion to Oakleigh, he had discovered beneath some tea-tree a patch of Golden Leek-orchids (*Prasophyllum Dixonii*) and *Corybas unguiculatus*, a small helmet-orchid—both new records for mainland Australia, and the former new to science.

[The type of *Prasophyllum Dixonii*, in Melbourne Herbarium, has been critically examined recently by Mr. W. H. Nicholls, who pronounces it to be merely a pale form of *P. nigricans*; so the species must lapse into synonymy.—Ed.]

Mr. Muir, of Dimboola, reported that the habitat of *Prasophyllum fusco-viride* (Dusky Leek-orchid) in Victoria has been extended by another 40 miles. It is now known from Dimboola (the type area), Diapur, Portland, from Yorke and Eyre Peninsulas in South Australia, and from near Dripstone, on the central-western slopes of N.S.W.

#### ORCHID DISCOVERIES OF SIXTY YEARS AGO

By T. S. HART, Croydon.

During a walk through well known country at Cheltenham in December, 1888, I visited a remarkable circular hollow known to us as "the amphitheatre." A small area of flat ground encircling the lagoon afforded specimens of the orchid *Cryptostylis subulata*, until then not known to me. Hence it became the subject of one of my first attempts at identification with the Baron's *Key to*